

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been currently amended. Claims 12-23 were canceled previously. Claims 1-11 are still pending in the application.

Claim Rejections Under §§ 102 and 103

The Final Action rejects claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by FR 2597820. The Final Action also rejects claims 3-8 and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over FR 2597820 in view of Belmond (U.S. Patent No. 5,590,744). Applicants respectfully disagree with these rejections because FR 2597820 and Belmond do not, separately or in combination, teach or suggest each and every limitation recited in these claims, as currently amended.

Claim 1. Independent claim 1 has been currently amended to recite limitations that are not taught or suggested in either of the relied-upon references. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite “a stationary electric motor for driving the actuator” and a “spindle/nut assembly” that “bears against the load sensor” and “compresses the load sensor.” Support for the current amendments to claim 1 can be found, e.g., in Figures 2-6 and paragraphs [0041]-[0050] of the specification.

Because FR 2597820 and Belmond do not, separately or in combination, teach each and every limitation recited in claim 1, as currently amended, claim 1 is allowable. Each of claims 2-11 is thus also allowable at least by virtue of its depending from allowable claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1 and 3 under § 102(b) and of claims 3-8 and 10-11 under § 103(a) is respectfully requested. Further, Applicants note that no specific ground of rejection was stated in the Final Action for claim 2.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that no further impediments exist to the allowance of this application and, therefore, solicit an indication of allowability. However, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned if any question or comments arise.

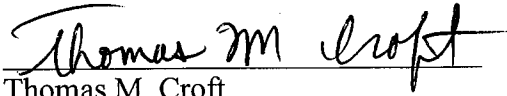
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

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Respectfully submitted,

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